

# Role of the ISACS Teacher Representative

*Benefits of Serving in this Leadership Role*

# Jill Webb

- ISACS Director of Professional Development
- Former ISACS Teacher Rep
- Former Teacher Leader
- Current Administrator
- Life-long Learner

# What is ISACS?

- Independent Schools Association of the Central States
- Organization of 235+ independent schools from 13 Midwestern states
- Mission is to lead schools in exemplary independent education
- Board comprised of Heads of School, other administrators and teacher leaders
- Primary role is accreditation for each member school on a 7-year cycle
- Commitment to professional development at all levels
- Executive Director, staff located in Chicago

# Why an ISACS Rep?

- Founded with a commitment to elevate and include teachers as valued partners in governance, committees and professional growth experiences
- Membership in ISACS includes an expectation of formal identification of at least one ISACS Rep in each school
- Serves as a vital link between ISACS and the school:
  - Consults with the Head of School on member-school votes
  - Disseminator of information at the school level – getting information and opportunities to all faculty and staff
  - May also serve on a local Teacher Services Committee where they exist

# Benefits to You as a Teacher Rep

- Provides invaluable leadership opportunities
- Connects you to other independent schools and resources
- Provides an expanded view of independent schools
- Develops and expands relationships with others serving in the same role

# Benefits to the School

- Connects the school to valuable resources
- Provides leadership development and opportunities that can be of significant value to the school
- Transfer of best practices in adult learning and professional growth models

# Benefits to ISACS

- Direct connection to each member school
- Feedback on needs at the school level
- Partner in promoting ISACS events, opportunities and resources
- Teacher voice in ISACS member-school votes including election of trustees/officers, changes in accreditation standards and association bylaws

# Who Should Serve as an ISACS Rep?

- Embracing and modeling for peers, the commitment to professional development, best practices and life-long learning
- Seen by peers as a respected teacher leader, a leader in professional development activities at the school
- Energized by the opportunity to grow beyond the school
- Willing to actively embrace the responsibilities of the role



# Expectations of the Teacher Rep

- Serving as the school's liaison in professional development
- Participating in state or regional Teacher Services Committees (TSCs) where applicable
- Actively promoting ISACS professional development opportunities and events at the school
- Attending the ISACS Annual Conference
- Using and directing colleagues to resources on the ISACS website ([www.isacs.org](http://www.isacs.org))
- Keeping ISACS informed of local professional opportunities for posting on the ISACS website
- Consulting with the head of school on membership votes

# Expectations of the School

- Identification of one or more ISACS Reps
- Entering Reps in the ISACS database
- Financially supporting attendance at the ISACS Annual Conference
- Recognize the contributions of the ISACS Rep
- Support opportunities for effective communication by the Rep

# Why it Matters

Schools can become cultures where youngsters are discovering the joy, the difficulty, and the excitement of learning and where adults are continually rediscovering the joy, the difficulty, and the excitement of learning. Places where we are all in it together.

*Learning by Heart by Roland Barth*

A precondition for doing *anything* to strengthen our practice and improve a school is the existence of a collegial culture in which professionals talk about practice, share their craft knowledge, and observe and root for the success of one another. Without these in place, no meaningful improvement – no staff or curriculum development, no teacher leadership, no student appraisal, no team teaching, no parent involvement, and no sustained change – is possible.

*Roland Barth*

# Gratitude

Thank you for serving as a valued teacher leader and for playing a role in developing a *true* community of learners.

# Role of the ISACS Teacher Representative

*Benefits of Serving in this Leadership Role*